

REMARKS

The claim objections set forth in paragraph 1 of the office action have been cured by making all of the changes requested by the Examiner.

Claim 1 calls for wireless linking a plurality of shopping carts within a retail facility through a local area network based in the retail facility. The carts are enabled to exchange information through the network. Thus, the shopping carts in the retail facility can exchange information among themselves. Dependent claim 5 enables receiving audible communications from the carts and dependent claim 6 enables the carts to communicate via text messages with one another over the network.

The claimed concept of enabling the carts to communicate with one another is not disclosed in any of the cited references. For example, the reference to Jelen is limited to communications between the carts and the server or host 58. There is no capability of enabling the carts to communicate among each other. Thus, Jelen does not teach enabling the carts to exchange information through the network. The carts in Jelen cannot exchange information through the network. They can only provide or receive information with the server. Thus, they cannot exchange text messages with one another either, as claimed in claim 6.

The cited reference to Fox is a system that enables micro terminals to communicate with a server. Operators can communicate with the server over the micro terminals. However, nothing indicates any capability of communication between micro terminals. The material at the bottom of column 4 of Fox and the top of column 5 does not say anything about enabling the terminals to communicate with each other. The material at column 10, lines 22-26, makes it clear that the communication is only between the micro terminals 12 and the central control system. Likewise, as indicated in column 10, lines 45-48, the messaging function is solely between the terminals and the central controller. There is no suggestion whatsoever that the micro terminals might be enabled to communicate with one another. In order to allow such communications, a number of capabilities would have to be provided, including enabling each of the terminals to know what other terminals are out there and to have some association between those terminal identifiers and the communication path needed to connect to those terminals. For example, any given terminal would not know how to communicate with any other terminal and

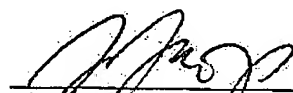
would not even know what terminals were available, absent some functionality that provides that information and implements the linking function.

Therefore, reconsideration of the rejections of claims 1, 5, and 6, in particular, is specifically requested. On the same basis, reconsideration of the other claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

12/3/04



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